

Washington, D.C. -- Congressman Jesse L. Jackson, Jr. said today that the Omnibus Appropriations Bill was "better passing now under President Obama, than never under former President Bush." The \$410 billion discretionary spending measure completes last year's unfinished work, funding many federal agencies and programs for the duration of the current fiscal year.

Congressman Jackson said, "Last year, President Bush refused to work with Congress to pass and implement spending bills. Instead, he insisted on making unacceptable cuts to healthcare, education, law enforcement and biomedical research. But, we in Congress refused to go along and rejected the devastating cuts.

"So, today's bill reflects a drastic change -- not in the country's priorities, but in our president. Now, Congress has a partner in President Obama, who shares a commitment to turn the country around and put us back on the right track. This bill -- which will soon be sent to and signed by the president -- works in harmony with the economic recovery package and makes critical investments that address the country's immediate as well as long-term needs."

The legislation will:

- Increase funding for renewable energy and energy efficiency efforts;
- Make investments in cutting edge science -- the driving force behind our economic recovery;
- Improve access to quality, affordable healthcare;
- Invest in K-12 education and help more American families send their kids to college;
- Help American workers through these tough economic times; and
- Protect Americans' access to clean air and water, and safe foods and medicines.

Jackson continued, that the bill also includes funding for important projects in my congressional district, which will improve the quality of life on Chicago's South Side and south suburbs. These projects will provide vital resources in a broad range of areas, including jobs training, healthcare, education, transportation, infrastructure and homeland security."

As a result of Congressman Jackson's efforts, the following items were included in the bill:

JOB TRAINING & EMPLOYMENT

- \$352,000 for the Safer Foundation to provide for the development and implementation of a transitional employment program and to conduct a demonstration program matching ex-offenders with an industry specific employment specialist or workplace coach.

- \$100,000 to Chicago Urban League to advocate for equal access to community-based resources for African American Youth in the juvenile justice system.

HEALTHCARE AND HUMAN SERVICES

- \$951,000 to Children's Memorial Hospital towards the construction of a new Comprehensive Cardiac Unit.

- \$190,000 to The University of Chicago Hospital to assist in the planning and development of the Urban Health Initiative, which includes an electronic medical records network to easily allow for transmission and sharing of health records among community partners.

- \$190,000 to Northwestern Memorial Hospital for the development of a comprehensive diabetic program focusing on disproportionately impacted minority populations and for the expansion of ophthalmology suites to treat related eye diseases.

- \$190,000 to Illinois Primary Health Care Association to modernize the health record systems of its current members in order to promote efficiency, improve patient care, and prevent medical errors.

- \$181,000 toward ACCESS Community Health Network's capital campaign for renovations, new building construction, and new medical and equipment.

- \$171,000 to St. James Hospital and Health Centers to expand its emergency treatment facility.

- \$162,000 to Aunt Martha's to construct a residential treatment center for developmentally delayed teen mothers.

EDUCATION

- \$940,000 for the Alder Planetarium & Astronomy Museum for a new projection system that would enable the museum to enrich its current sky shows and develop new shows incorporating the museum's expanded focus on space exploration.

- \$100,000 to the Village of Richton Park to expand a successful after-school program providing tutoring, mentoring, and counseling services to at-risk youth.
- \$95,000 to the Foundation for Alzheimer's and Cultural Memory for its Memory Bridge Initiative to teach students to effectively communicate with people suffering from dementia.
- \$95,000 to History Makers to create a large video oral history archive of African Americans. Funding would help to convert and develop their collection into a digital archive.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- \$122,821 to the Village of Olympia Fields to develop a comprehensive economic development marketing strategy to combat the "unconscious discrimination" and "retail redlining" that discourages retail establishments from locating in the Chicago Southland.
- \$122,821 to the YWCA for an economic empowerment program focusing on financial stability and independence of women in need.

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

- \$28.7 million to continue work on the ADeep Tunnel@ project, including construction of the McCook and Thornton reservoirs located in Chicago=s south suburbs.
- \$24 million to provide preliminary engineering and environmental impact studies for Metra's SouthEast Service line and four other Metra lines in the Chicagoland area.
- \$8.6 million for the Upper Mississippi River System to provide for navigation efficiency, environmental sustainability, and ecosystem restoration.
- \$4 million for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to continue work on the Chicago Shoreline Protection Program, which will provide storm damage protection to the Lake Michigan shoreline in Chicago.
- \$285,000 to extend CTA's Red Line (Dan Ryan) from its current terminus at 95th Street to 130th Street.

- \$280,000 to the City of Chicago Heights to provide for storm water catch basin drains throughout the city.

- \$237,500 for streetscape improvements along 75th and 79th Street from Yates to South Shore Drive. Funding would provide for new sidewalks, lighting, landscaping, and resurfacing. These improvements will attract new shoppers and new businesses to the area.

- \$220,000 to the Village of South Holland to provide for the separation of the sanitary and storm sewers, thereby alleviating the flooding problems.

- \$120,000 toward the environmental infrastructure needs in Cook County including development and protection of water supply systems, combined sewer overflows, and remediation of adverse water quality impacts to waste water systems.

- Funding for Indian Ridge Marsh to preserve, enhance and naturalize existing wetland and woodland areas and protect restored areas while encouraging public access.

FIRST RESPONDERS, LAW ENFORCEMENT AND HOMELAND SECURITY

- \$300,000 for the E-Com Dispatch Center to expand their network of providing police, fire, and emergency services to the City of Country Club Hills.

- \$300,000 for the SouthCom Combined Dispatch Center to enable the center to upgrade its 9-1-1 system to a digital platform.

- \$100,000 to the YWCA of Metropolitan Chicago to provide a first line of support to sexual assault victims and ongoing assistance to survivors. Funding would enable the YWCA to provide these services in a new center scheduled to open in 2010 in Chicago's south suburbs.

FOOD SAFETY AND AGRICULTURE RESEARCH

- \$2,077,000 to the National Center for Food Safety and Technology at Illinois Institute of Technology to conduct FDA's food defense research initiative and the majority of the FDA's research on recovery and prevention technology.

- \$745,000 to the Soybean Disease Biotechnology Center at the University of Illinois at

Urbana-Champaign, to enable scientific advances in structural, comparative, and functional genomics and genetic engineering to protect soybean crops from diseases and to improve productivity.

- \$564,000 for the Livestock Genome Sequencing Initiative at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign as part of an international effort to identify every gene of the cattle and swine species by its unique DNA sequence and location on specific chromosomes, and provide a database to identify the function of these genes.

- \$461,000 for Future Foods at the University of Illinois to support research on the relationship between functional compounds in food and the incidence of chronic diseases in humans, the impact of processing and storage on the functionality of these compounds, and processing and packaging procedures to reduce the risk of contamination.

- \$235,000 to the Center for One Medicine at the University of Illinois to fund research, education and outreach efforts to improve our nation's preparedness to respond to natural and intentional exposure to biological, chemical, and physical threats to public health.

- \$176,000 toward Agricultural Marketing to support the expansion of the MarketMaker information platform to a national level to enable food producers, processors, wholesalers and retailers to have electronic access to geographically-referenced data.

- \$104,000 to Windy City Harvest to serve as a national model of urban horticulture and organic food production; green entrepreneurship; research and development on urban soils; and community education and outreach. The funds requested will be used to implement and evaluate the CCIL pilot project and to complete the assembly of the organizational and operational infrastructure.

"This bill invests in our families and our future. It is a bill that invests in America," Jackson concluded. -30-